

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

INFO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652, N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CI

SUBJECT: TRANSCRIPT OF STATE DEPT. NEWS BRIEFING, FRIDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 14, 1973

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE PERTINENT REMARKS CONCERNING CHILE  
MADE BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN AT TODAY'S NOON  
BRIEFING FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND POSSIBLE USE IN ANSWERING  
QUESTIONS:

Q: PAUL, YESTERDAY YOU WERE ASKED -- AND I COPIED THE  
QUESTION DOWN -- WHETHER YOU WOULD FLATLY AND UNEQUIVOCALLY  
DENY THAT AN OFFICIAL DECISION WAS MADE NOT TO INFORM THE  
ALLENDE GOVERNMENT OF THE INFORMATION WE HAD REGARDING A  
POSSIBLE COUP. YOU TOOK THE QUESTION. HAVE YOU A REPLY  
FOR US TODAY?

A: I DON'T KNOW IF I HAVE A DIRECT REPLY TO THE QUESTION.  
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I WOULD POINT OUT, HOWEVER, SEVERAL FACTORS. ONE IS I HAVE  
TRIED TO INDICATE YESTERDAY WE DID NOT KNOW AT ANY TIME THAT  
THERE WOULD BE A COUP IN CHILE. WHAT I DID SAY WAS THAT  
THERE HAD BEEN A STEADY STREAM OF REPORTS OVER A PERIOD OF

MONTHS AND WEEKS AND DAYS INDICATING THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH A COUP.

WHILE I AM DISCUSSING THIS, I WOULD LIKE TO CLARIFY ONE REMARK THAT I MADE YESTERDAY WHICH I SAW WAS SUBSEQUENTLY INTERPRETED IN A MANNER WHICH DOES NOT ACTUALLY REFLECT REALITY. THAT CONCERNS THE LATTER REPORTS THAT WE RECEIVED IN THE DEPARTMENT. I SAID THAT THE LATTER REPORTS THAT WE RECEIVED WERE NOT SEEN BY RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS IN THE DEPARTMENT UNTIL AFTER THE COUP IN FACT HAD STARTED IN CHILE. I WAS SPECIFICALLY REFERRING, IN THAT INSTANCE, TO THE LAST REPORTS WHICH WE RECEIVED, WHICH INDICATED THAT THERE WOULD BE A COUP ON SEPTEMBER 11. OBVIOUSLY THE OTHER REPORTS THAT WE RECEIVED PRIOR TO THAT OCCASION WERE SEEN BY RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS IN THE DEPARTMENT.

I JUST WANTED TO MAKE THAT CLARIFICATION. SECONDLY, I WOULD SAY THAT THE KIND OF INFORMATION WE WERE RECEIVING WAS, IN THE PAST MONTHS, BROADLY AND GENERALLY KNOWN IN SANTIAGO. BUT I WOULD REPEAT THAT WE DID NOT KNOW THAT THERE WOULD BE A COUP. WE WERE RECIPIENTS, AS MANY OTHER PEOPLE, I AM SURE, INCLUDING THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE, OF THE POSSIBILITY, OF THE RUMORS THAT WERE CIRCULATING IN SANTIAGO.

Q: PAUL, EXCEPT FOR THE POSSIBLE EXCLUSION OF MINUTIA, WOULD YOU SAY OR CAN YOU SAY THAT ALLENDE OR ALLENDE'S PEOPLE KNEW SUBSTANTIALLY WHAT WE KNEW, OR WHAT YOU KNEW, ABOUT THE SITUATION? IN OTHER WORDS, YOU SAY IT WAS GENERALLY KNOWN IN SANTIAGO. DID WE KNOW ANYTHING SPECIAL OR SIGNIFICANT THAT WAS NOT GENERALLY KNOWN TO ALLENDE ABOUT THE LIKELIHOOD OF A COUP?

A: ON BACKGROUND, WHAT I HAVE BEEN TRYING TO INDICATE IS SPECIFICALLY THAT, THAT THE ATMOSPHERE IN SANTIAGO WAS FILLED WITH STORIES AND RUMORS OF COUP POSSIBILITIES OVER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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THE PAST MONTHS, AND WE, OF COURSE, WERE RECIPIENTS OF THOSE STORIES, ALONG WITH MANY OTHERS. AND I WOULD PRESUME THAT WOULD INCLUDE THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE.

Q: PAUL, JUST A COUPLE OF DAYS BEFORE THE COUP ALLENDE, IN A TELEGRAM TO THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE, EXPRESSED REGRET THAT HE COULD NOT ATTEND BECAUSE OF THE TENSE SITUATION IN HIS COUNTRY. WOULDN'T THAT INDICATE THAT HE AT LEAST SENSED THAT SOMETHING WAS BREWING?

A: IT WOULD CORROBORATE WHAT I JUST SAID, YES.

Q: MR. HARE, COULD YOU TELL US WHEN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT BEGAN GETTING MESSAGES FROM THE NEW JUNTA LEADERSHIP, AND WHETHER THOSE MESSAGES WERE PASSED TO THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN SANTIAGO, OR WHETHER YOU ALSO RECEIVED ANY MESSAGES FROM THE NEW GOVERNMENT, THE NEW LEADERSHIP HERE IN WASHINGTON FROM THE CHILEAN EMBASSY.

A: I CAN SAY THIS -- THAT OUR EMBASSY DID RECEIVE A CIRCULAR DIPLOMATIC NOTE FROM THE NEW GOVERNMENT WHICH WAS TRANSMITTED TO WASHINGTON YESTERDAY.

Q: WHAT DID THAT SAY?

A: ON BACKGROUND, BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE THE NOTE IN FRONT OF ME, AMONG OTHER THINGS, IT SAID THAT IT CONSIDERED ITSELF THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF CHILE, THAT IT WAS PREPARED TO MEET CHILE'S INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS, AND IT INDICATED ITS DESIRE TO MAINTAIN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, AGAIN, ON BACKGROUND.

Q: WITH WHOM?

A: WELL, IT WAS A CIRCULAR NOTE. THE ONE THAT WOULD BE ADDRESSED TO US WOULD INDICATE WITH THE OTHER GOVERNMENTS ALSO.

Q: DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY GOVERNMENTS IT WAS ADDRESSED TO?

A: I DON'T KNOW.  
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Q: WHO SIGNED IT, PAUL, DO YOU KNOW?

A: I'M AFRAID I DON'T KNOW. I THINK IT CAME FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, BUT I DON'T KNOW.

Q: DID IT ALSO ASK RECOGNITION OF THE NEW JUNTA LEADERSHIP?

A: ON BACKGROUND, I DON'T KNOW IF IT WAS PHRASED IN THAT MANNER.

Q: THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS TO THAT EFFECT. THAT IS WHY I ASKED.

A: IT MIGHT. I AM JUST NOT CERTAIN IF THAT WORD IN ITSELF WAS USED.

Q: BUT, PAUL, BY THE ACCOUNT YOU JUST GAVE US, THAT WOULD SEEM TO MEET THE CONDITIONS THAT YOU LAID OUT FOR US THE OTHER DAY FOR MAINTAINING RELATIONS WITH THE NEW GOVERN-

MENT. CAN YOU TELL US ANYTHING FURTHER, THEN, ON THE PROSPECT THAT WE WOULD MAINTAIN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CHILE?

A: NO, I CAN'T. I REALLY CAN'T. ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT THIS NOTE WAS TRANSMITTED BY OUR EMBASSY TO WASHINGTON YESTERDAY, AND NO ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN ON THE NOTE AS YET.

Q: DO WE REGARD THE JUNTA AS BEING IN EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF THE TERRITORY OF THE WHOLE COUNTRY?

A: I AM IN NO POSITION TO COMMENT ON THAT AT THIS POINT.

Q: COULD YOU ANSWER MY ORIGINAL QUESTION, WHETHER WE HAVE RECEIVED ANY UNILATERAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE NEW GOVERNMENT?

A: THIS IS THE EXTENT OF OUR OFFICIAL CONTACTS WITH THE NEW GOVERNMENT. I UNDERSTAND THAT THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL LOWER LEVEL INFORMAL AND WHAT WE CONSIDER UNOFFICIAL CONTACTS WITH THE NEW GOVERNMENT HAVING TO DO WITH BASICALLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LLY NECESSARY ONGOING EMBASSY BUSINESS -- AS I AM SURE HAS BEEN THE CASE WITH OTHER EMBASSIES IN SANTIAGO. BUT I WOULD REPEAT THAT THE ONLY OFFICIAL CONTACT THAT WE HAVE HAD TO DATE WAS FOR RECEIPT OF THIS CIRCULAR DIPLOMATIC NOTE.

Q: EXCUSE ME, PAUL. IS THIS A CIRCULAR NOTE ISSUED BY THE NEW CHILEAN JUNTA?

A: IT WAS ISSUED -- IT CAME, I BELIEVE, ON BACKGROUND, BECAUSE I AM NOT ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN, BUT I AM QUITE SURE IT CAME FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

Q: WHEN WAS IT ISSUED, JUST ON BACKGROUND, TO THE EMBASSY?

A: WELL, WE RECEIVED IT YESTERDAY. SO IT MIGHT WELL HAVE BEEN THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY. I AM NOT POSITIVE.

Q: WAS IT LENGTHY?

A: NO. MY RECOLLECTION IS THAT IT IS ABOUT ONE PAGE.

Q: AND YOUR UNDERSTANDING IS, THEN, THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO OTHER CONTACT CONCERNING THE COUP, ITS AFTERMATH, OR THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO IT FROM THE NEW CHILEAN REGIME.

A: MY UNDERSTANDING IS, AS I JUST STATED, THAT WE HAVE HAD THESE OTHER INFORMAL AND UNOFFICIAL CONTACTS, HAVING TO DO WITH ON-GOING EMBASSY BUSINESS. AND THAT IS THE

EXTENT OF IT.

DECONTROL DECEMBER 14, 1973. RUSH

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